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DEPT FOR WHA/PPC AND G/TIP

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SUBJECT: CANADA: INTERIM TIP ASSESSMENT INPUT

REF: STATE 228298

¶1. Poloff met with Alain Tellier, Deputy Director of the International Crime and Terrorism Division at Foreign Affairs Canada, on November 1, to discuss the requirement for an interim Trafficking in Person (TIP) assessment, based on Canada being elevated from a Tier 2 to a Tier 1 country in this year's TIP report. Tellier is the co-chair of the Government of Canada Interdepartmental Working Group on TIP issues (GOC IWG-TIP), comprised of 17 GOC departments and agencies.

¶2. The following inputs are keyed to the questions on Canada contained in reftel:

Q1. What general anti-trafficking progress has the Government of Canada made since May 2004? Provide details of salient achievements or setbacks.

A1. The GOC IWG-TIP notes the following achievements:

a) TIP was identified as a government priority in the Speech from the Throne that opened the new session of the Canadian Parliament in October.

b) Prime Minister Martin specifically raised the matter of TIP in his speech to the UN General Assembly in September.

c) A roundtable discussion, with participants from the federal government, provincial government of British Columbia, the Vancouver Police, the RCMP, academics and a cross section of local NGO's, was held in Vancouver in November, to discuss issues related to TIP, including prevention and awareness and local issues.

d) At the Cross Border Crime Forum, held in October, a proposal was approved to conduct a joint U.S.-Canada threat assessment on TIP.

Q2. Have Canadian law enforcement personnel started using the 2003 TIP law?

A2. According to the GOC IWG-TIP, there are at least five ongoing TIP investigations.

Q3. Have steps been taken to close down the large flow of Korean trafficking victims transiting British Columbia en route to the U.S.?

A3. According to the GOC IWG-TIP, "Information currently held by Canadian authorities does not lead to the conclusion that such a situation exists and we would welcome any additional information available in this respect. Canada remains committed to maintaining its close cooperation with U.S. authorities in securing the safe and efficient management of our common border. The Canada/U.S. Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) remain an important tool in this respect, as was recently reiterated by the Deputy Prime Minister to the Secretary of Homeland Security, when they met in October. IBETs are multi-agency law enforcement teams that emphasize a harmonized approach to Canadian and U.S. efforts to target cross-border criminal and terrorist activity. Regarding the fact that nationals from the Republic of Korea can travel visa free to Canada, it should be noted that Canadian visa policy is based on the premise that all persons require a visa to enter Canada unless specifically exempted. Decisions to amend visa policy are based on a thorough analysis of a number of risk and benefit factors associated with the movement of foreign nationals. Canada reviews visa requirements on an ongoing basis. As this is a secret process, it is not possible to disclose which countries have or may be under review."

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